

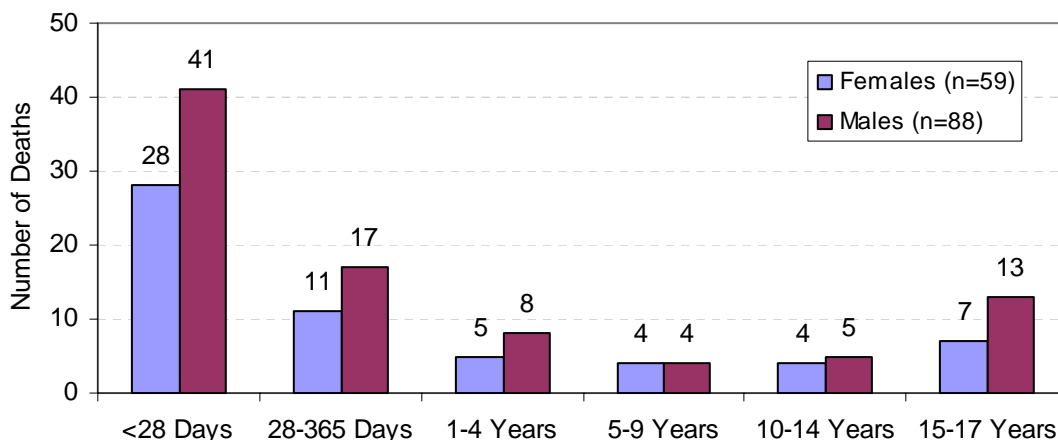


2006 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR PIMA COUNTY

DEMOGRAPHICS

During 2006, 147 children who resided in Pima County died before reaching their 18th birthdays. Males accounted for 60 percent of child deaths in this county (n=88) and females accounted for 40 percent (n=59). Almost half of all deaths occurred among children younger than 28 days (47 percent, n=69). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by gender and age group.

Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Gender and Age Group, Pima County, Arizona 2006 (n=147)



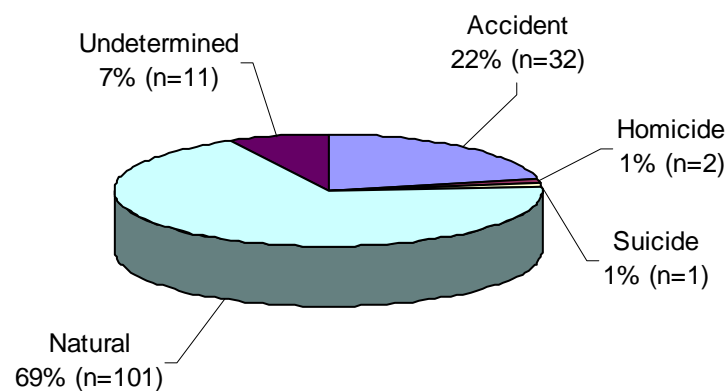
Deaths were over-represented among African American, American Indian, and Non-Hispanic White children in Pima County. African American children comprised five percent of the population but seven percent of the fatalities (n=11). American Indian children comprised five percent of the population and six percent of the fatalities (n=9). Non-Hispanic White children comprised 44 percent of the population and 49 percent of the fatalities (n=72). Hispanic children comprised 43 percent of the population but 36

percent of the fatalities (n=53). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (one percent, n=2).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Sixty-nine percent of deaths were natural (n=101); 22 percent were due to accidents (n=32); seven percent were of undetermined manner (n=11); one percent were homicides (n=2); and one percent were suicides (n=1). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Pima County, Arizona 2006 (n=147)



There were 101 child deaths classified as natural, including 48 from medical causes, 52 from prematurity, and one from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Eighteen children died in motor vehicle crashes, and four children died due to accidental suffocation. There were four drowning fatalities. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner, Pima County, Arizona 2006 (n=147)						
Cause	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Natural	Undetermined	Total
Prematurity				52		52
Medical*				48	2	50
Motor vehicle crash	18					18
Undetermined					7	7
Suffocation/strangulation	4				1	5
Drowning	4					4
Firearm	1	1			1	3
Other injury	3					3
Poisoning	2					2
Hanging			1			1
Blunt force trauma		1				1
SIDS				1		1
Total	32	2	1	101	11	147
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity						

Among the 18 motor vehicle crash deaths, ten children were passengers, two children were driving, four children were pedestrians, and two children were on bicycles. Of the ten vehicle passengers who died in crashes, six were in back seats, two were in front seats, and one child was killed while riding in a truck bed. For one child, the location in the vehicle was unknown.

PREVENTABILITY

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caretaker or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 28 percent of the deaths among Pima County children could have been prevented (n=41).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team might have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In Pima County, substance use was a contributing factor in 19 child deaths (13 percent), and unsafe infant sleeping environments contributed to 14 deaths (nine percent). Co-sleeping contributed to ten deaths (seven percent), and lack of supervision was a contributing factor in nine deaths (six percent). More than one factor may have been identified for each death. Table 2 shows the most common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of Pima County.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Pima County, Arizona 2006		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Drugs/alcohol	19	13%
Unsafe infant sleep environment	14	9%
Co-sleeping	10	7%
Lack of supervision	9	6%
Lack of vehicle restraint	6	4%
Infant sleep position	6	4%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN PIMA COUNTY COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Pima County and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 14 Arizona counties. During 2006, 147 children who were residents of Pima County died, and 943 children

died who were residents of the other 14 counties. Twenty-eight percent of the deaths of Pima County children could have been prevented (n=41), and 39 percent of the child deaths in the remaining counties were determined to have been preventable (n=370).

Prematurity was the leading cause of child deaths in Pima County (35 percent), but it was the second leading cause for the remainder of Arizona (25 percent). Medical conditions accounted for 33 percent of deaths in Pima County but comprised 40 percent of child deaths in the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 12 percent of deaths in Pima County and 13 percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Pima County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Pima County, Arizona 2006			
Pima County (n=147)		Arizona, Excluding Pima County (n=943)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Prematurity	35%	Medical	40%
Medical	33%	Prematurity	25%
Motor vehicle crash	12%	Motor vehicle crash	13%

In Pima County, the largest percentage of deaths were natural (69 percent), and in the remaining counties, natural deaths accounted for 65 percent of child deaths. Accidents accounted for 22 percent of child deaths in Pima County and 21 percent in the remaining counties. There was a larger percentage of undermined manner deaths in Pima County (seven percent) compared to the rest of the state (three percent). The percentages of deaths due to suicides and homicides were lower in Pima County than in the remaining counties. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Pima County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Pima County, Arizona 2006			
Pima County (n=147)		Arizona, excluding Pima County (n=943)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	69%	Natural	65%
Accident	22%	Accident	21%
Undetermined	7%	Homicide	6%
Homicide	1%	Suicide	5%
Suicide	1%	Undetermined	3%